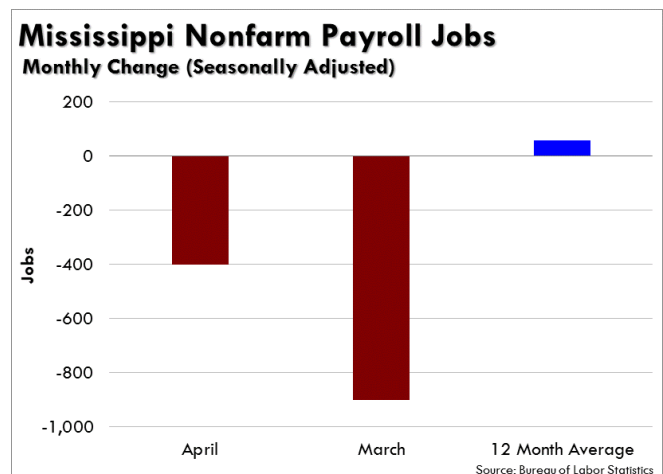
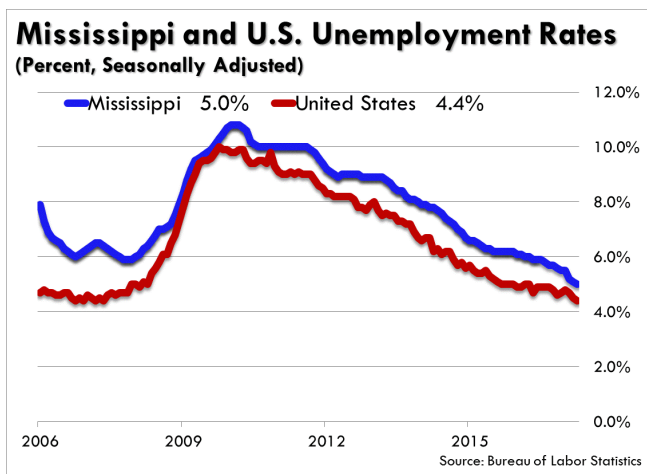


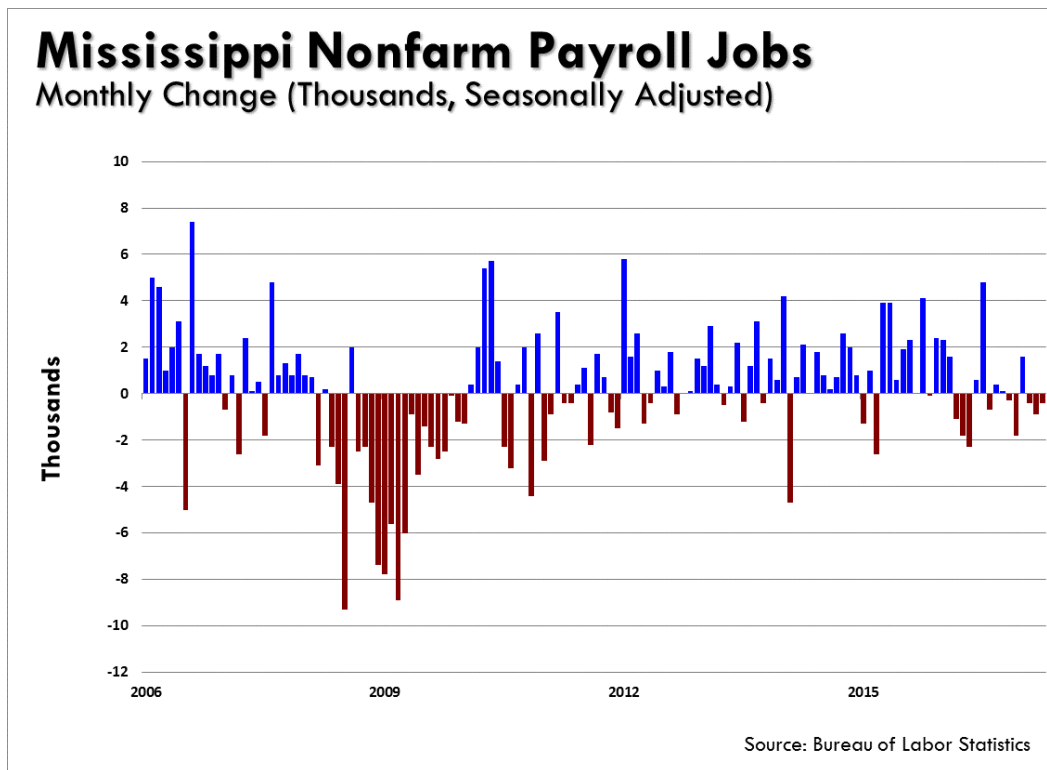


May 22, 2017

Summary

- **Mississippi lost 400 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5 percent in April** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Mississippi added 700 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 1 percentage point from 6 percent.
- **In April, Mississippi's private sector lost 900 jobs** and over the past twelve months it declined by 600 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Mississippians fell by 1,124 in April**, and over the past year 36,878 Mississippians found jobs.
- Mississippi's **labor force participation rate increased to 57 percent** from 56.9 percent in April. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.9 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent in April**. State employment and unemployment data for May is scheduled for release on June 16, 2017. The national employment situation report for May will be released on Friday, June 2, 2017.





Mississippi Payroll Employment

Mississippi lost 400 jobs, or 0.03 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during April. In the prior month, Mississippi lost 900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Mississippi increased by 700, or 0.06 percent. Mississippi nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

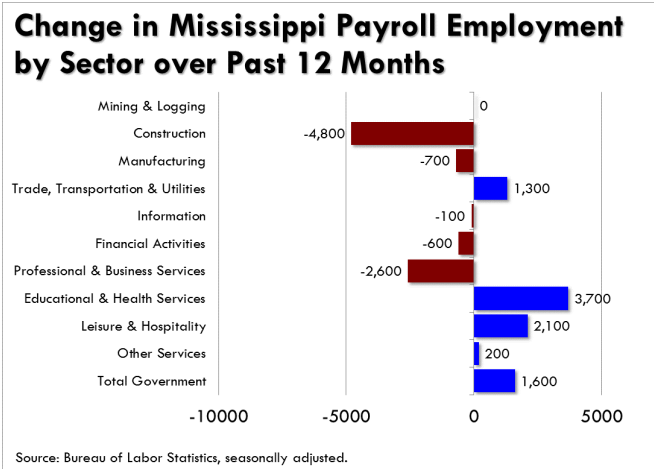
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 211,000 jobs in April, or 0.14 percent. Over the 12-month period ending April 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,237,000 jobs, or 1.56 percent. Mississippi ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During April, Mississippi's private-sector lost 900 jobs, or 0.10 percent. The private-sector in Mississippi lost 1,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Mississippi declined by 600, or 0.07 percent. Mississippi private-sector payroll employment has increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 194,000 jobs in April, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,058,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.69 percent. Mississippi ranks 36th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during April were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+900) and Other Services (+600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-2,000) and Manufacturing (-500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,700) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (-3,600), Manufacturing (-1,000), and Financial Activities (-1,000).



Mississippi Labor Force Statistics

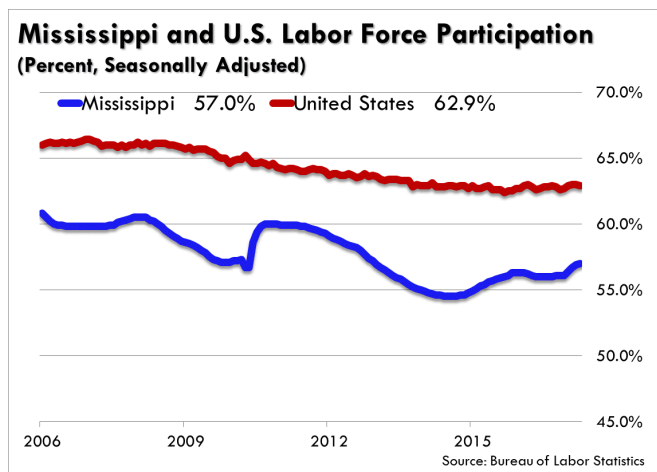
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Mississippi rose to 57.0 percent in April from 56.9 percent the prior month. At 57.0 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Mississippi is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi was 60.5 percent in March 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi occurred in September 1994 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 54.5 percent in September 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi. The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in April 2017, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Mississippi civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 54.2 percent in April from 54.0 percent the prior month. At 54.2 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios



in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi is 1.5 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi was 56.9 percent in January 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi occurred in May 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.8 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 50.4 percent in June 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in July 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 50.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.2 percent in April. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

